

MINUTES
of the
SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WORKSHOP MEETING

DATE: March 30, 2004

PLACE: 550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair John Britton, Directors Brian Fahnestock, Lee Moldaver, Olivia Rodriguez and Interim General Manager Sherrie Fisher

OTHERS PRESENT: Browning Allen and Dan Secord (City of Santa Barbara), Jerry Estrada, Lynnette Coverly, Steve Maas, David Damiano, and Barbra Nelson (MTD).

1. Call to Order

Chair John Britton called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

2. Roll Call of the Board of Directors

Chair Britton noted that all Board members were present except Director David Davis.

3. Report Regarding Posting of Agenda

Board Clerk Barbra Nelson reported that the agenda for this meeting was posted at the MTD administrative headquarters and on the MTD Website last week and mailed to media of general circulation.

4. Approval of Prior Minutes

Director Lee Moldaver moved to waive the reading of, and approve the minutes of March 16, 2004. Director Olivia Rodriguez seconded the motion. Director Fahnestock had one correction regarding the meaning for SIR (Self Insurance Retention). Correction will be made and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Cash Report

Director Moldaver moved to accept the Cash report for March 9, through March 22, 2004. Director Fahnestock seconded the motion. Chair Britton mentioned that the Finance Committee had not met, and will be meeting this Friday, but he had reviewed the report and he recommended that the Board accept it. Chair Britton asked how long Brad Davis would be assisting Controller Jerry Estrada. General Manager Sherrie Fisher stated that it would be for 6 months. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Resolution 04-3 to File a Claim with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) for Transportation Development Act (TDA) Funds for Fiscal Year 2004-20005

Director Moldaver moved to accept the resolution. Director Fahnestock asked about the mechanics of the funds. Controller Jerry Estrada explained that these funds are the Transportation Development Act (TDA) local transportation funds processed through SBCAG because MTD's area population is under 200,000. Director Fahnestock noted that MTD reserves are deferred credits from this fund, money that was programmed but not yet spent. The Controller agreed. Since MTD is not a direct recipient of Measure D funds, the only way we have to create a reserve for the future is through our assets such as property or becoming a direct recipient of funds. The roll call vote resulted in 4 ayes and one absent.

8. South Coast Transit Priorities

The General Manager and Planning Manager reviewed plans for an update on South Coast Transit Priorities that incorporated new services for the community. Ms. Fisher noted that many of the plans in the South Coast Transit Plan have been implemented including the Cross Town Shuttle, the Carpinteria Seaside Shuttle, additional service to the Mesa, increased express service to Goleta and trunk service to Camino Real Marketplace. These changes resulted in increased riders of 531,000 trips annually.

Ms. Fisher reviewed plans for the implementation of some new routes in the City of Goleta, the Santa Barbara Downtown Circulator with Super Stops, shuttle service from UCSB to Elwood Beach and Transit Center upgrades to include regional service.

Director Fahnestock asked that the MTD staff provide a priority list of services, even if some of these do not meet the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) standards. Director Moldaver suggested that the MTD staff review marketing data to determine how to encourage local residents to ride more frequently.

Controller Estrada said it was his understanding that expansion of existing service will not meet CMAQ standards. The General Manager said there were a number of priorities to relieve overloading that would be at the top of the District's priority list if no funding rules prevented this. Director Fahnestock stated that, given limited resources, he is concerned about funding the Downtown Circulator. Director Rodriguez stated that she had a different perspective for the Downtown Circulator using Denver's Downtown system as an example of a great service.

Browning Allen from the City of Santa Barbara (City) Planning department stated that MTD staff should inquire of Santa Barbara County Association of Governments if increasing levels of service would qualify for CMAQ funding. Mr. Estrada said he agrees that increasing frequency of service should qualify, but unfortunately he doesn't think the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) sees it that way.

Ms. Fisher continued reviewing service plans including service to the Santa Ynez Valley. She indicated that it appears to be difficult for any of the Santa Barbara City and County agencies to make commitments to fund service after the CMAQ grant request for operating funds in the first 3 years is gone. Mr. Allen said that the City can commit to 5 years out, but that this comes at the sunset of Measure D and it is very difficult to commit beyond then.

Council Member Dr. Secord asked that MTD provide advertising space on buses now to promote Measure D's existing projects so the public can see the benefit of renewing this measure.

Ms. Fisher asked what the Board would direct in regards to going forward with the SCTP plans when the other agencies would not be able to commit to funding service after completion of the CMAQ grant period.

Director Fahnestock noted that what we are saying is that we can provide these services because there is money available now, but at the end of 3 years, the service may have to stop. However, Mr. Fahnestock noted that we are not saying that this is our highest priority, but that this is our highest priority with this particular type of funding. Ms. Fisher agreed that this is not our highest priority for service in general. Director Moldaver offered some background of when the SCTP was put together by Martin Erickson and other MTD staff members, first in the mid-90's when there was no plan that incorporated the regional components of circulation elements. Director Moldaver noted that some of the projects here are not the highest priorities now but was identified then, by our partner government agencies as the highest priorities and was thus included in the SCTP.

Mr. Allen asked how long it took to evaluate a new service. Planning Manager Steve Maas said it took three years for new service and approximately a year for expansion or change to service. He agreed that our mission is to serve the transit dependent and that if MTD had unrestricted money, we would use it on some of the currently overcrowded routes such as 6, 11, and 20. However, Mr. Maas stated that the County and City have other needs that are also important. He added that to the extent that we have funds available for their needs, we would seek to service those needs.

Mr. Estrada noted that in 1999, our cost per hour for operation was \$50 and steady but now the cost continues to increase. Thus, many of the plans have been scaled back accordingly. The General Manager reminded the audience that an important aspect of this grant is replacement of aging Villager fleet. In addition the replacement of Cross Town and Downtown Waterfront buses will be needed. Beyond vehicles, a revamp of the Transit Center to accommodate regional service, able to assist with a solution to Highway 101 congestion problems may be one of the most important steps MTD can take in the long term.

Ms. Fisher asked the Board to assess the risk MTD is willing to take considering that year four of the proposed services might not be funded other than by MTD. Director Fahnestock asked if MTD submits their plan for the

CMAQ funds and SBCAG makes the decision. Director Moldaver noted that there is a competition for the funds amongst all the agencies for a wide range of projects.

Dr. Secord asked if MTD had been talking to Cottage Hospital to provide service from their new housing to the Hospital. Ms. Fisher answered that MTD must be careful to avoid charter service; the hospital is possibly planning to provide their own shuttle via vans. Mr. Maas added MTD is not allowed to offer a dedicated shuttle to the hospital employees, but that we are continuing discussions and looking at possibilities.

Director Moldaver made a motion to authorize the staff to submit the revised project as outlined in the tables but asked staff to review the project again first. Director Fahnestock stated that he would still like to have our top unmet priorities listed and presented to SBCAG because this is still tax payers money and our fiduciary responsibility to spend money as wisely as possible. Dr. Secord suggested that there be two lists because knowing this would be very helpful. Director Moldaver said he agreed with the concerns, but reminded them that these are pre-approved plans. Mr. Estrada stated that we have to tie our request to CMAQ standards. Director Fahnestock seconded the motion to accept the revised SCTP as presented and the motion passed unanimously.

9. General Manager's Report

Ms. Fisher reported that the first Union negotiations meeting will be April 20th and other items are listed on a report attached included in the Board packet. Chair Britton asked if there were any questions for the General Manager.

10. Other Business and Committee Report

Chair Britton said there was no Finance Committee Meeting but there will be one on next Friday. Director Moldaver asked that there be either a closed or open session on the status of MTD's Calle Real and Overpass properties and also requested a report on the Earmarked Federal Transportation Administration funds. Director Rodriguez stated that MTD is very close to an agreement on Calle Real property. The General Manager reported that she had written to the Santa Barbara County to find out what would need to be done regarding clean up on the Overpass Road property before MTD goes forward on selling or leasing that facility.

11. Recruitment of General Manager (closed session)

Chair Britton reported out of the closed session that the Board had decided to hire a professional recruiter to handle the General Manager opening. Director Moldaver stated that the reason they decided to hire a recruiter was so there would be no potential conflict or extra workload for the MTD staff.

12. Adjournment

Director Moldaver moved to adjourn and Chair Britton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20.